



International Medical Corps staff members set up emergency shelters at the Los Angeles County (LAC) + University of Southern California (USC) Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA.

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of March 30 there are 782,365 cases reported in 178 countries and regions.
- 37,582 deaths have been recorded.
- The United States leads the world in number of confirmed cases, with at least 161,807 cases recorded as of March 30.

SITUATION UPDATE

The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths continues to rise globally. As countries continue to take aggressive steps to the curb the spread of the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized six key measures, in addition to social distancing, that will suppress and stop transmission:

1. expanding, training and deploying each country's healthcare and public health workforce;
2. implementing a system to find every suspected case at the community level;
3. ramping up the production, capacity and availability of testing;
4. identifying, adapting and equipping facilities that can be used to treat and isolate patients;
5. developing a clear plan and process to quarantine contacts; and
6. focusing the whole of each country's government on suppressing and controlling COVID-19.

These steps, says the WHO, will curb transmission and could even prevent local transmission, enabling countries to avoid severe social and economic costs related to more extreme control measures. Preventative efforts are becoming more important as the next big spike of cases could occur in vulnerable regions that lack sufficient healthcare systems. Currently, more than 100 countries and territories still have fewer than 100 cases. In response to this threat, the United Nations launched a \$2 billion COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan focused on providing support to the most vulnerable countries.

In the United States, the majority of cases are in New York, with northeastern states also seeing case totals increase rapidly. New Jersey now has the second-highest number of confirmed cases in the country. Additional hotspots are emerging across the country—including in New Orleans, Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis and Kansas City—leading officials to warn that medical facilities in these urban areas could soon be overwhelmed.

In response to the growing crisis, on March 27 President Donald Trump invoked the Defense Production Act, ordering General Motors to begin manufacturing ventilators. Additionally, the president signed a \$2.2 trillion bipartisan stimulus package to boost unemployment benefits, help business and support healthcare systems across the country.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise worldwide, International Medical Corps' country missions have taken decisive action to prepare for and respond to COVID-19—supporting local health authorities through the procurement and provision of medical supplies and equipment, and enhancing our current health activities to address specific COVID-19 screening, triage and isolation needs. Here is a sampling of our activities around the world.

- In the **United States**, International Medical Corps is partnering with health facilities to provide surge support—including medical shelters, equipment, supplies and volunteers—to strengthen hospital capacity during the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to deploying medical shelters and equipment to Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH), which serves an area of high medical need in South Los Angeles, International Medical Corps' team of logisticians and medical experts are setting up two additional sites at LAC+USC Medical Center and at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. These medical shelters arrived over the weekend and will be staged and equipped by April 1. Both shelters will provide surge capacity for the hospitals' emergency departments and include seating areas and beds for up to 32 patients.

In addition to the three shelter buildouts in Los Angeles, International Medical Corps is deploying two medical shelters to Puerto Rico—to support the Damas Hospital in Ponce and Hospital Perea in Mayaguez—at least three to New York, to support the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, the Flushing Hospital Medical Center and the Maimonides Medical Center. Discussions also are underway with NYC Health + Hospitals to support their facilities in New York. We are deploying two shelters to Detroit, to support the Henry Ford Hospital and Wayne State-Detroit Receiving Hospital, and are planning to deploy medical shelters and supplies to COVID-19 hotspots in Illinois, Ohio and Louisiana.



A view inside one of International Medical Corps' emergency medical shelters at MLKCH.

- In **Yemen**, International Medical Corps is one of the largest health actors, working across seven governorates with operational programs in two entry points of the country, Sana'a and Aden. Though no confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported, we have equipped our healthcare facilities with additional supplies and equipment to increase our ability to triage, identify, isolate and transfer COVID-19 patients. Additionally, the team is focused on preparedness activities related to the infection prevention and control (IPC) training, isolation protocols and risk communication activities to protect beneficiaries and frontline healthcare workers.
- In both the **Philippines** and **Lebanon**, International Medical Corps is supporting healthcare facilities, in partnership with local health authorities, by providing IPC training for healthcare workers and by providing emergency shelters, equipment and supplies to support active case management. In the Philippines, International Medical Corps has partnered with the Santa Ana Hospital in Manila, where we have established an emergency medical shelter to support screening and triage activities. In Lebanon, International Medical Corps has equipped and supplied 61 primary healthcare facilities with essential personal protective equipment (PPE) and materials to support national COVID-19 response priorities. Based on International Medical Corps' risk stratification for our country missions, both countries are classified as a Category 4—meaning that they require

immediate response activities, given the level of local transmission within the country. (Category 5 in International Medical Corps' risk stratification scale is the highest level of alert, meaning that there is widespread transmission in the country involved.) There are currently 1,546 confirmed cases in the Philippines and 446 cases in Lebanon.

- In **Jordan**, International Medical Corps is continuing to provide vital health services at the Azraq Camp Hospital, while establishing COVID-19 isolation areas in partnership with local health authorities. The isolation areas will be used to provide immediate initial treatment to all suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases within the Azraq Camp. Our team is screening all personnel and refugees entering and exiting the camp every day. There are currently 268 confirmed cases in Jordan. Given the level of local transmission, International Medical Corps also has classified Jordan as a Category 4 country.
- In **Chad**, with five confirmed cases recorded, International Medical Corps is focused on supporting the N'djamena District Hospital by providing PPE and supplies, to help healthcare providers engage in active case management of COVID-19. International Medical Corps is also supporting risk communication activities, including radio ads and text messaging, to provide beneficiaries with critical information regarding social distancing and proper hand hygiene. Additionally, we are working with local health authorities to ensure the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems are functional at all supported health facilities.
- In **Libya**, International Medical Corps is supporting the National Center for Disease Control by providing diagnostic supplies and PPE for Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) that will be deployed to localities where COVID-19 cases have been confirmed. These RRTs will provide risk communication materials to local communities and will triage and screen communities for COVID-19. As of March 30, eight confirmed cases have been recorded in the country.

Technical Guidance

WHO, Technical Guidance: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

WHO, Training on Novel Coronavirus: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/training>

WHO, Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 Training : <https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-IPC-EN>

CDC, COVID-19 guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>